

Ag Conference Call Notes

Wednesday November 15, 2006

Present: Tom McCarthy, Cindy Martens, Eric Wiklund, Scott Wilson, Dan Olson, Bill Gibbons, Josh Sobaski, Randy Clark, Karen Grimes, Bob Palla

200A applicators

Those applicators applying/hauling manure (soil conditioner/soil amendment) under IDALS 200A, must still have Manure Applicator Certification. The only person not needing to be certified would be the one running the skid loader inside the building. There was some confusion regarding this when applicators were calling Dept. of Ag. DNR has spoken to the Dept. of Ag and all departments are in agreement.

Conference Call Notes

Ag Conference call notes are now on the DNR website under Animal Feeding Operations, then under additional information.

P-index Based MMPs Existing Sites

One more reminder that there are **no extensions** for P-index based MMPs being due. Complete soil sampling must be done for all fields that will have manure application in the four-year MMP submittal cycle. DNR is sending a 6-month reminder letter and many press releases have gone out. Producers are also being reminded of this requirement through ISU Extension, their consultants, local elevators and other publications.

AFO Database

There is a new consultant working on the AFO database, so please be sure to test this database and report any problems you may see in the bug tracker. There is Tier information now available, so make sure you enter that in the test database and see how it works.

Administrative Approval Letters

It was again brought up that the approval letters being sent out say that records should be kept for 3 years. Records need to be kept for 5 years and this wording will be changed once the database is updated with the new letters. Please continue to remind producers of the 5-year requirement during MMP visits and phone conversations.

Plat Maps/Books

Each office is responsible for updating and replacing their own plat books. Most offices are doing this every year or every other year.

Modification of Earthen Basins

FO#4 has been finding several earthen basins that modified their piping and in doing so disturbed the liners. These were done without approval or construction permitting. These are examples of minor modifications that should have first required the operator to have a PE submit construction plans and specs for our review. If we agreed that the work was a minor modification, we would then have authorized them to do the work, as detailed in the plans and specs, without a permit. Minor modification of a basin without plans and specs that clearly describe what was done and how it was done, is similar to construction of a basin without a permit. Therefore, we could require up-and down-gradient groundwater monitoring or permeability testing of the disturbed liner area; similar to our policy for as-built approval of unpermitted basins.

Secondary Containment Structures

These structures are prohibited from having valves or drains in them. Some are proposing or are putting in a valve or drain to let the clear water out. This is not permitted.

Possible Changes in Ag

A study released this week by the Iowa State University (ISU) unit of the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), suggests some major changes for the U.S. pork industry under current ethanol policies.

www.card.iastate.edu/publications/synopsis.aspx?id=1029

Abandonment of Facilities

The owner of the facility who abandons it is responsible for clean-up and closure. Potential new owners should make sure that the old owners have cleaned up and properly closed a facility before they acquire the property or make proper clean-up and closure a condition of the sale.

Banning Manure Application on Soybean Ground

Randy said that the EPC, at its November meeting delayed a final decision on the Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) for another month. They asked DNR staff to draft another NOIA for the December meeting calling for an application limitation of 100 lbs/ac of available nitrogen followed by a total ban in 5 years. The 5-year period would allow time for additional study before the ban is imposed.

Please mark your calendars for the next Ag Conference Call- Wednesday December 20th at 9 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Martens 11/21/06.